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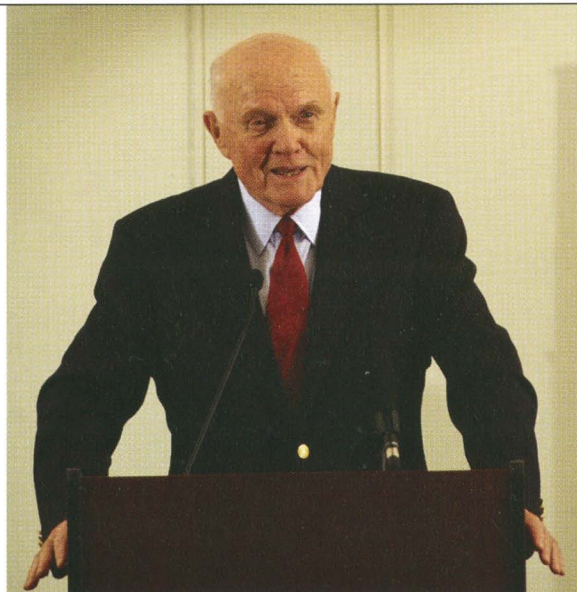
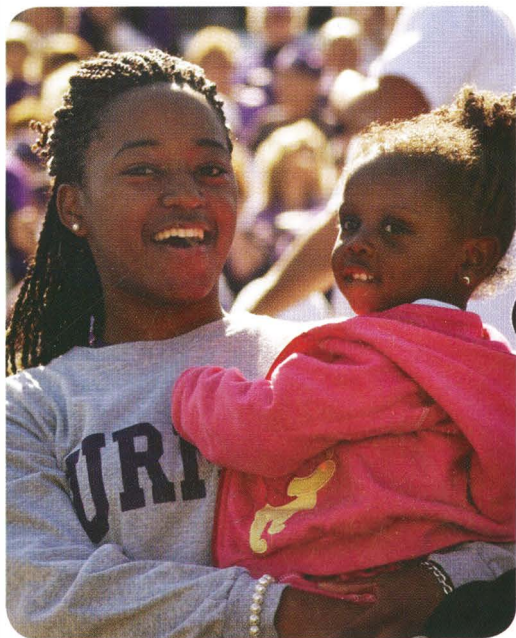
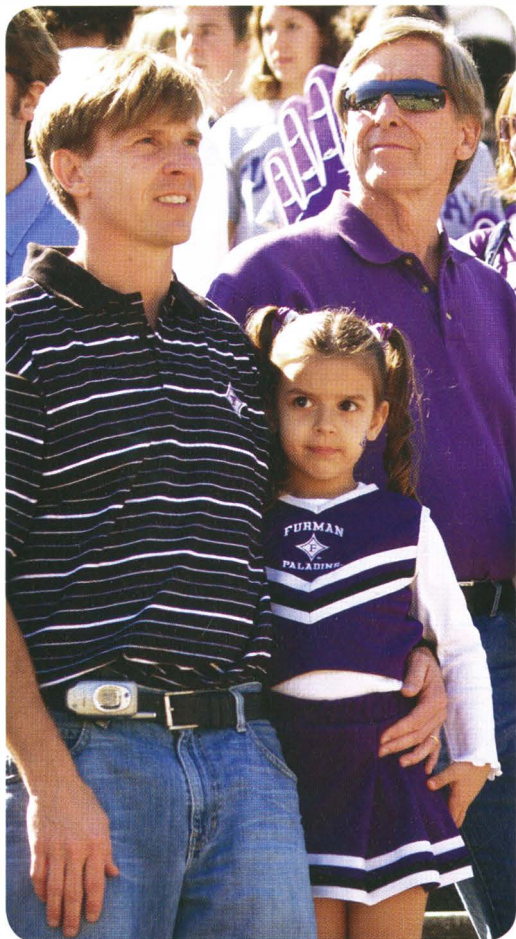
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Glenn proposes massive energy project

John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, called for the United States to launch a "Manhattan Project for storing energy" during his appearance at Furman September 25.

Glenn, who represented Ohio in the U.S. Senate from 1974 through 1998, was the keynote speaker for a national conference on "The Environment: Critical Issues of the 21st Century," sponsored by the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership.

In his talk before a packed house in Younts Conference Center, Glenn referenced the massive government effort to develop nuclear weapons as he proposed that the nation investigate the possibility of large-scale storage of electrical energy to help avert a future energy crisis. "We can convert the forces of nature to electrical energy, but we can't store it," he said, adding that the individual who succeeds in developing such a process would "change the energy patterns of the world."

As he pointed out, "Societies basically succeed or fail based on how they use energy."

Although he acknowledged that the United States is the largest polluter and consumer of energy of any nation, he reminded the audience that the environmental crisis is not strictly an American problem. Solutions, he said, require cooperation and collaboration.

"Water and air blow and flow across our boundaries, and we need to all work together to respond to the recent unprecedented changes in climate," Glenn said.

The three-day conference featured a variety of lectures and panel presentations by politicians, journalists, activists and pundits on topics ranging from the state of the environment in South Carolina to global issues such as biodiversity and the oil crisis. For a video of Glenn's talk, visit the newly established Furman Channel at www.furmanchannel.com.